

BICYCLE SECTION

This section of the report is dedicated solely to addressing the bicycle needs of Jackson County.

In a letter dated March 1992, the Jackson County Planning Board prepared a priority list of their transportation concerns for the County. The letter listed provisions for bicycles as a high priority. To date, the only designated bicycle route in Jackson County consist of the red highlighted facilities in **Figure 9**. This route is part of the Mountains to Sea route and is designated as NC Bike Route 2. This means that these facilities may be subject to more bicycle traffic than other facilities of similar design. If a facility is designated and signed as a bike route, then the minimum design standards for these facilities should be met. Due to the shared, or multi-modal, use of these facilities, it is recommended that the sub-standard bicycle routes be widened to a standard 24 foot cross-section. This widening will enhance safety and improve the functional design of the facility.

The following facilities are part of the designated Mountains to Sea Bike Route with sub-standard widths. It is recommended that these facilities be widened to 24'-standards with an additional 2 feet of paved shoulders for bicycles.

- SR 1001 (Speedwell Road): From NC 107 to Macon County.
- SR 1449 (Cope Creek Road): From SR 1527 (Scott's Creek) to NC 107.

In addition, **Figure 9** highlights facilities in yellow within the county that would provide a continuous and comprehensive bicycle system for Jackson County. The system utilizes NC 107, US 64, US 441, and US 74. This system provides access to the northern and southern developed areas of Jackson County, as well as a connection to adjacent counties.

The system includes three facilities that would require additional improvements to bring them up to 24'-standards with additional 2 feet of paved shoulders for bicycles. They are:

- NC 116: From US 23/441 to NC 107.
- SR 1002: From NC 107 to NC 107 (East Laport).
- SR 1732 (Weyehutta Road): From SR 1002 to SR 1002 (Cullowhee).

When considering the widening of these facilities, it is recommended that the Office of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation (NCDOT) be consulted. They can help provide the most appropriate cross-section for the widening. They may also provide assistance in identifying the need for bicycle improvements based on present and future bicycle traffic. The County should contact the coordinator of this branch for further consideration and assistance.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Program
NC Department of Transportation
P. O. Box 25201
Raleigh, NC 27611